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D R O I T W I C H B O R O U G H C O U N C I L.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

A N D

THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1946.

TO THE CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH OF DROITWICH.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report upon the public health of the Borough for the Year 1946

SECTION A.

STATISTICS.

Area	1,735 acres.
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid 1946.	5,725.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books.	1,485
Rateable Value.	£38,383.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£147. 11. 9d.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	111	61	50
Illegitimate	6	3	3

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the resident population (estimated)- 20.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales 19.1

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population 0.5.
" " " " " " " " England and Wales 0.53.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	68	32	36

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population - 11.9
Death Rate England and Wales same period - 11.5

Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES - Nil

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	2	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate for the year 17.1
Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales 43

The Infantile Mortality Rate for the Borough of Droitwich for the year 1945, as recorded in my last report was 26.

I think it is necessary to realise that rates for small populations and short periods are apt to be misleading.

Continued -

Deaths occurring from special causes during the year :-	1944	1945	1946
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	10	8	11
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1.	Nil.	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1.	Nil.	1.

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	1	11
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	Nil
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1	Nil
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	Nil
Influenza	1	Nil
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Nil	3
Cancer	5	6
Heart Disease	5	9
Other diseases of circulatory system	3	Nil
Bronchitis	2	1
Pneumonia	1	1
Digestive Disease	1	Nil
Nephritis	Nil	1
Congenital Diseases	Nil	Nil
Road Accidents	1	Nil
Other violent causes	3	Nil
Other causes	6.	4

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Services.

These are provided at the County Council's laboratory in Worcester.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Droitwich and District Ambulance continues to meet the needs of the district, as regards sick and accident cases.

Infectious cases are removed to hospital in ambulances provided by the Isolation Hospital Authorites.

Nursing in the Home.

This is provided by the LOCAL DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION. Two District Nurse-Midwives are working in the area.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council's Infant Welfare Centre is held in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich, every Tuesday afternoon. Children are immunised against diphtheria at this Centre.

During the year the following attendances were made at the Centre:-

Attendances of children under 1 year of age	1418
Attendances of children 1 to 5 years of age	539

The County Council's Antenatal Clinic is held on the first and third Wednesday morning in each month at the Baptist Church Hall.

During the year there were 383 attendances at this clinic. Health visiting in the district is done by one of the County Council's Health Visitors.

Continued -

Hospitals.

Patients in the district attend the Worcester Royal Infirmary and the Birmingham Hospitals.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Hill Top Isolation Hospital, Bromsgrove.

Treatment for cases of Tuberculosis is provided by the County Council and those requiring sanatorium treatment are admitted to Hill Top Hospital and Knightwick Sanatorium.

Maternity cases can be admitted to the County Council's hospitals, the Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital at Stourport and the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge.

Treatment for cases of Venereal Disease is provided free of charge by the County Council at the following hospitals:-

General Hospital, Steelhouse Lane, Birmingham.

Kidderminster & District General Hospital, Kidderminster.

Worcester Royal Infirmary.

Guest Hospital, Dudley.

Corbett Hospital, Stourbridge.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (a) Water Supply.

The supply of water from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company has been satisfactory, both in quality and quantity, throughout the year.

Samples are taken quarterly and are sent to the County Laboratory for analysis. These samples gave satisfactory results throughout the year.

(b) Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No changes in these services were made during the year.

2. Rivers and Streams.

The Canal bed is in a dirty condition and requires cleansing but owing to the shortage of labour, the Ministry of Health has been unable to approve the carrying out of this work. It is hoped that this work will be carried out as soon as possible.

3. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This was carried on as usual, and is reported on below by the Sanitary Inspector.

4. Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken in this matter during the year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Work was begun on the Council's post-war housing programme during the year.

The list of applications for Council Houses is long and contains many urgent cases. It is hoped that as the building of new houses progresses, it will be possible to deal with the many cases of overcrowding and insanitary houses in the Town.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	201
	Number of Inspections made for above purpose.	232
(b)	Number of dwelling-houses (included above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations 1925 & 1932.	31
	Number of Inspections made for above purpose	31
(c)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(d)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	131

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	85
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (or defects remedied). Nil.
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.
 - (a) By owners Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied None.
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
 - (a) By the owners None.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners. None.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None.

2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders None.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. None.

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room being rendered fit

None.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year

None.

2. Number of persons concerned in such

None.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk.

All premises used in connection with the production or sale of milk were inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

During the year 499 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year, 59 children completed a full course of immunisation and 9 children received a reinforcing dose.

At the end of the year the percentage number of children estimated to be immunised was 52% in the age groups 0-5 years and 68% in the age groups 5-15 years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	3	Nil.
Diphtheria	2	2	Nil.
Measles	6	Nil.	Nil.
Whooping Cough	4	Nil.	Nil.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Nil.	Nil.
Erysipelas	1	Nil.	Nil.
Primary Pneumonia	2	Nil.	1.
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	Nil.	Nil.

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups:-

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Whooping Cough.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Primary Pneumonia.
Under 1 year.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
2 -	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
3 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 -	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
5 -	3	3	-	-	-	2	-	-
10 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 -	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
35 -	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 -	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	4	6	2	1	2	4	1	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis are as follows:-

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 -	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
15 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 -	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
35 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 -	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
55 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	3	Nil	1	Nil	3	Nil	Nil

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of December 1945 and 1946 were as follows:-

	Pulmonary Cases.		Non-Pulmonary Cases.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1945	14	14	2	4
1946	16	12	2	5

No action was taken in 1946 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 17 of the Public Health Act 1936, (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis)

My thanks are due to Mr. G.L. Robinson and his staff for the help they have given in the compilation of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET C. FELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT
of the Sanitary Work completed in the year ended
31st December, 1946.

Housing.

The Council's Housing Programme was during 1946 getting under way and whilst no houses were completed some were occupied early in 1947, and tenders were let and work commenced upon the construction of others.

The Housing problem is becoming more acute as the months go by, but it is hoped that 1947 will see a good start upon the finding of homes for the many needy cases.

There are a number of houses in the Borough in a very bad state of repair and which could doubtless have been cleared but for the war.

It is very evident that when the housing of families without houses is complete an important slum clearance programme will await the consideration of the Council.

At the close of the year the Council were considering the best method of dealing with unfit houses from which tenants had moved to Council Houses, with a view to preventing the houses again becoming overcrowded at an early date.

Repair of Houses not in all respects fit for habitation and sanitary improvements.

Due to the concentration of building labour upon new houses it is most difficult to quickly obtain the execution of repairs of existing dwellings. The owners attention has been drawn to defects in a number of instances and repairs have been carried out after informal action.

Scavenging and Refuse Disposal.

Refuse disposal is still carried out by controlled tipping at the old Sewage Farm. The tip is maintained in good order, and regularly treated against rat infestation.

Collection which was fortnightly has been improved to a weekly visit to each house. With the re-occupation of a number of Hotels and the influx of visitors into the Town it has become necessary to have a refuse collection team of driver and 3 men, being 1 additional man.

The maintaining of the necessary number of collectors is far from easy in the present time of labour shortage.

Your refuse collection vehicle 10 years old, requires renewal, and as this will take a considerable time I would suggest consideration be given to the matter now.

Salvage.

The undermentioned salvage has been collected during the year..

With the ending of hostilities interest in Salvage collection dropped and the voluntary workers ceased giving their time to this work. Accordingly it is becoming more and more difficult to arrange collections without the costs incurred becoming so high as to exceed the income received from the sale of salvage collected.

	Salvage collected 1946			1945.		
	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
Paper	21	7	1	26	17	0
Rags	8	1		1	9	0
Bones	7	2		7	0	
Scrap Iron	6	12	3	5	15	0
Jars etc.	599	1	dozen.	91	1	dozen.

Infectious Diseases etc.

Visits to houses on account of notifiable disease	2
Houses Disinfected after notifiable disease	6

Housing.

Houses erected	(a) By Local Authority	Nil.
	(b) By "private enterprise or subsidy"	Nil.
Flats erected		2.
1.	(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects	232.
	(b) Number (included above) inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulation 1925	31.
	(c) Number of houses found unfit for habitation	3.
	(d) Number of houses (excluding c.) not in all respects fit for habitation	131.
2.	Number of defective houses rendered fit after informal action	198.
3.	<u>Housing Act 1936, Sections 9, 10 and 16.</u>	
	(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs of defects remedied	Nil.
	(b) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by:-	
	(a) The owner	Nil.
	(b) The Local Authority in default of owner	Nil.
4.	<u>Public Health Acts.</u>	
	(a) Number of dwellings in respect of which notices were served requiring repair of defects remedied	Nil.
	(b) Number of dwellings subsequently rendered fit after notice by:-	
	(a) The Owner	Nil.
	(b) The Local Authority in default of owner	Nil.
5.	<u>Housing Act 1936, Sections 11 and 13.</u>	
	(a) Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
	(b) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
6.	<u>Housing Act 1936, Section 12.</u>	
	(a) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
	(b) Number of Closing Orders determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.

7. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded } Owing to the influx of
at the end of the year } persons into the Town
Number of families dwelling therein } due to the war, no
Number of persons dwelling therein } figures are available
as to the present amount
of overcrowding in the
Borough.

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil.
 (b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil.
 Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil.

Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water supplies dealt with None.
Is there a deficiency in any parish or part of the District? None.
If so, please give name of parish or part

Slaughter Houses.

Public Slaughter houses	None.
Number registered (private)	None.
Number licensed (private)	5.
Number of contraventions or bye-laws or defects found	None.
Number of inspections - Premises not in use owing to Food Control.	

Milk.

Number of registered dairy farms in the area 8.
Total number of retailers in the district 10.
Number of Licences under Milk (Special Designations) Order

Pasteurised.	Accredited.	Tuberculin Tested.
Nil.	1.	Nil.
2.	5.	1.
Nil.	2.	Nil.

Approximate number of milking cows in the district 95.

Canal Boats.

There are no Canal Boats registered.

Lodging Houses.

Number on Register	None.
Number of Inspections	None.
Number of contraventions of bye-laws or defects found	None.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Number on Register	None.
Number of Inspections	None.
Number of contraventions of byelaws or defects found	None.

Hood.

Number of seizures as unfit for consumption Nil.
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for consumption:-

190	Eggs.	7	lbs. Evaporated Milk.
48	lbs. Sausage Meat.	4	lbs. Canned Beetroot.
30	lbs. Raisins.	1	lb. Canned Pilchards.
3	cwt. Herrings.	1	lb. Canned Beans.
42	lbs. Fish Röes.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Canned Steak.
25	lbs. Prunes.	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs. Raising Powder.

Amount destroyed as unfit for consumption - The Whole.

Food & Drugs Act.

Samples taken for analysis	None.
Number of samples certified genuine	None.
Number of samples certified adulterated	None.

Other Matters:

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act - Cases dealt with	None.
Verminous persons - Cases dealt with	None.
Verminous Houses - Cases dealt with	10.
Stagnant water - Cases dealt with	None.
Nuisances arising from domestic animals	None.

Legal Proceedings.

Convictions obtained with regard to insanitary conditions None.
Convictions obtained with regard to unsound food None.
None. ~~and alcohol related disease before it was able to see~~

Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases.

There was no serious outbreak of Infectious Disease or other abnormal illness during the year.

Sanitary Improvements.

None.

Chief Sanitary Requirements.

None.

Fever.

None.

(Signed) GRAHAM L. ROBINSON.

Sanitary Inspector.